

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: DISAGREEMENT ON LABOR UNITY

REF: ROME'S 16760

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. TWO DAYS OF DEBATE ON THE LABOR UNITY ISSUE HAVE PRODUCED A MAJOR DISAGREEMENT ON SETTING A TIMETABLE FOR ACHIEVING ORGANIC MERGER OF ITALY'S THREE MAJOR LABOR CONFEDERATIONS. RATHER THAN PRODUCE A SPLIT, THE 90-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CCU HAS PUT OFF A VOTE ON THE ISSUE AND ADOPTED A PLAN TO PRESENT FOR DEBATE WITHIN EACH OF THE CONFEDERATIONS THE CONTRASTING VIEWS WHICH EMERGED. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF HEATED DISCUSSION, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) HAS AGREED TO DIS-AGREE ON THE SUBJECT OF LABOR UNITY. THE MAJORITY VIEW, PROMULGATED MOST STRONGLY BY THE CGIL SOCIALISTS, SUPPORTED FIRMLY BY THE CGIL COMMUNISTS AND SOMEWHAT MORE EQUIVOCALLY BY THE CISL MAJORITY AND THE UIL SOCIALISTS, WAS FOR FIXING A TIMETABLE FOR ORGANIC MERGER OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS. THE TIMETABLE WAS THEN

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TO BE RATIFIED BY THE COMPETENT BODIES OF EACH ORGANIZATION.

3. RAFFAELE VANNI, UIL SECRETARY GENERAL, OPPOSED THIS PLAN ON THE GROUNDS THAT, WHEREAS HE WAS FOR LABOR UNITY, THE PRE-CONDITIONS FOR AUTONOMY OF THE UNIONS FROM THE POLITICAL PARTIES WERE NOT IN HAND. AS THE DISCUSSION DEVELOPED, VANNI AND CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA TOOK INCREASINGLY OPPOSED POSITIONS. BASICALLY, THE CISL WAS ON THE SIDELINES. FINALLY, VANNI ASSERTED THAT, IF THE MAJORITY VIEW WERE PRESSED TO A VOTE, THE MAJORITY WOULD "HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A MAJOR RUPTURE" IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

4. AT THIS POINT, CGIL METAL WORKERS CHIEF TRENTIN STEPPED IN TO ASSERT THAT "MORE IMPORTANT THAN COMING OUT OF THIS MEETING WITH A VOTE IS TO COME OUT OF IT WITHOUT A SPLIT" IN LABOR'S RANKS. HE THEREFORE PROPOSED, AND THE CCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGREED, THAT A NINE-MAN COMMISSION -- THREE FROM EACH CONFEDERATION -- BE CHARGED WITH SYNTHESIZING THE VARIOUS POINTS OF VIEW WHICH HAD EMERGED. THIS DOCUMENT IS TO BE THE BASIS FOR DEBATE AND DISCUSSION WITHIN THE CONFEDERATIONS, WITH A RESOLUTION OF THE UNITY TIMETABLE ISSUE PUT OFF TO A FUTURE TIME.

5. THE CCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTINUED ITS SESSION TODAY IN ORDER TO DRAW UP A PLAN FOR CONFRONTING THE NEW MORO GOVERNMENT WITH LABOR'S PRINCIPAL DEMANDS.

6. COMMENT: CLEARLY, VANNI HAS NOT PULLED BACK FROM HIS TOUGH LINE AGAINST PROCEEDING CURRENTLY TOWARD ORGANIC MERGER DESPITE THE INTENSE PRESSURE BEING EXERTED AGAINST HIM (SEE ROME'S 16919). IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT THE CGIL IS PREPARED TO GO TO ALMOST ANY LENGTHS TO PREVENT A FRACTURE IN LABOR'S RANKS OR A BREAKDOWN IN LABOR UNITY ALREADY ACHIEVED. AFTER HAVING PRESENTED THE MAJORITY REPORT RECOMMENDING THE FIXING OF A TIMETABLE FOR MERGER, STORTI LARGELY WITHDREW FROM THE LAMA-VANNI CROSSFIRE WHICH ENSURED. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT, WITH IMPORTANT PARTY CONGRESSES IN THE OFFING (COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS, REPUBLICANS), THE CCU WILL NOT AGAIN DEBATE THE LABOR UNITY ISSUE FOR THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR MONTHS. VOLPE

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